

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 IO-12 DPW-01 NSAE-00 PRS-01

PA-03 L-03 H-02 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /129 W  
----- 050834

O R 121145 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3572

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

USDAO SAIGON

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DOD SPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS  
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2841

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA  
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 12

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI;  
MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

REF: VIENTIANE 2807

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS BY HOWITZER AND TANK  
GUN FIRE DROVE FRIENDS FROM KEY POSITION JUST NORTH OF THA VIANG,  
SOUTHEAST OF PDJ, ON 11-12 APRIL. ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, ACTIVITY  
REMAINED VERY LOW WITH ONLY FIVE MINOR INCIDENTS RECORDED. RLAF  
FLEW 19 T-28 AND 4 AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES, MAINLY IN THE THA VIANG  
AREA WHERE WEATHER WAS MARGINAL. POLITICAL - RLG NEGOTIATOR CON-  
FIRMS THAT NEGOTIATIONS AT AN IMPASSE. LON NOL SPECIAL ENVOY  
GENERAL SAK SOUTHSAKAN CALLED ON PRIMIN APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I- CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR PROBE OF OUTPOST APPROX TEN  
KM SOUTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG ROYAL CAPITAL ON 10 APRIL  
( NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

B. MR II: ACTION IN REGION CONCENTRATED IN THA VIANG AREA  
SOUTHEAST OF PDJ, WHERE ENEMY UNDERTOOK HEAVY ATTACKS OF FRIENDLY  
POSITIONS. ONE MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED EARLY MORNING 11 APRIL  
(102250 Z), WHEN POSITION APPROX TEN KM NORTH OF THA VIANG AT UG  
322154 RECEIVED ESTIMATED 150 ROUND ATTACK BY FIRE; FRIENDS WITH-  
DREW SLIGHTLY, WITHOUT CASUALTIES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER  
(102325 Z), TWO OTHER POSITIONS APPROX FOUR KM NORTH OF THA VIANG  
AT UG 320092/323084 WERE HIT BY OVER ONE THOUSAND ROUNDS MIXED  
MORTAR/ 122 MM HOWITZER FIRE FOLLOWED BY COMPANY- SIZE GROUND  
ATTACK. FRIENDS WERE AGAIN FORCED TO WITHDRAW SOUTH WITH UNKNOWN  
CASUALTIES. ALSO DURING MORNING 11 APRIL, THERE WERE HOWITZER  
SHELLINGS OF TWO POSITIONS JUST WEST AND SOUTH OF THA VIANG  
( NO CASUALTIES). THE FOLLOWING MORNING (12 APRIL), AN ATTEMPT TO  
MEDEVAC SOME 35 WIA ( INCLUDING ONE BATTALION COMMANDER) WAS  
THWARTED  
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BY FIRE FROM TWO NEWLY- ACTIVE ENEMY TANKS. TOTAL CASUALTIES ARE AS YET UNKNOWN WITH SOME UNITS DISPERSED AND RADIO CONTACT SPOTTY. ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE THREE MINOR CLASHES ON 11 APRIL-- TWO, APPROX 20 KM NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG, AND, ONE, SOME 30 KM SOUTHWEST OF THA VIANG ( ESTIMATED THREE ENEMY CASUALTIES). RLAF, ALTHOUGH HINDERED BY MARGINAL WEATHER, FLEW TOTAL OF 14 T-28 SORTIES ON 11 APRIL, ALL IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTIONS ( ONE RECOILLESS RIFLE SILENCED).

C. MR III: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR CLASH IN VILLAGE APPROX 50 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK ON 10 APRIL ( ONE FRIENDLY KIA, 12 HOUSES BURNED). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

D. MR IV: THERE WERE THREE MINOR PATROL CLASH/ SHELLINGS, ALL SOME 30-35 KM NORTHEAST OF PAKSE IN VICINITY OF BAN KENG GNAO, NEAR WEST EDGE OF BOLOVENS PLATEAU; TWO OCCURRED DURING EVENING 10 APRIL AND ONE THE FOLLOWING MORNING ( NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW FIVE T-28 SORTIES ON 11 APRIL AND FOUR AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTIONS ( ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION).

E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. FORTY- TWO OF 50 FRIENDS MIA FROM 10 APRIL ACTION NORTHWEST OF BORIKHANE HAVE RETURNED.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED TOTAL OF ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS HAD RISEN TO 369 AS OF MORNING 9 APRIL. ( COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 91 MAJOR AND 496 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 8 APRIL. END COMMENT)

## 2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

RLG NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN ON APRIL 11 CONFIRMED TO DCM THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REACHED TEMPORARY IMPASSE AND THAT, WITH NEARLY ALL OFFICIALS AND LPF DEL OUT OF TOWN FOR PI MAI ( NEW YEAR), FURTHER TALKS WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT WEEK. PHENG SAID THAT SAM NEUA HAD FIRMLY REFUSED SOUVANNA' S SUGGESTION TO SEPARATE POLITICAL FROM MILITARY ISSUES; AND, CONSEQUENTLY, FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT MUST AWAIT SOLUTION OF DIFFICULT MILITARY PROBLEMS. PHENG WAS SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED THAT LPF HAD REQUESTED TO ATTEND THIS WEEKEND' S NEW YEAR CEREMONIES IN LUANG PRABANG WHERE THEY WILL

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PAY ALLEGIANCE TO KING.

B. VIENTIANE DAILY XAT LAO, APRIL 12, REPORTED THAT CAMBODIAN MAJOR  
GENERAL SAK SOUTSAKAN CALLED ON PRIMIN SOUVANNA APRIL 11 IN  
CAPACITY AS " SPECIAL ENVOY" OF PRESIDENT LON NOL. SOUTSAKAN  
ARRIVED  
VIENTIANE APRIL 10 AND WILL DEPART FOR BANGKOK APRIL 14.  
GODLEY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
EA  
JAKARTA  
MOSCOW  
PARIS

PHNOM PENH  
SECSTATE WASHDC

**Type:** TE

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